



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Examiner: Lund, Jeffrie Robert

YAO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1763

Serial No.: 09/457,929

San Francisco, CA 94111

Filed: December 8, 1999

For: Wafer Carrier and Semiconductor  
Apparatus for Processing a  
Semiconductor Substrate

Date: December 4, 2002

#198  
12/12/02  
MLW

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on December 4, 2002.

Signed:

Karl Bateman

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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This is in response to the Final Office Action in the above-referenced application mailed June 4, 2002. A Request for Continued Examination application is filed herewith. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. All pending claims, whether or not amended are presented below for convenience.

- FI  
Sub
1. (Amended) A wafer carrier for supporting a substrate, comprising:  
a circular plate having a flat edge region extending around the circumference of said plate, said flat edge region having a width of approximately 5 to 25 mm; and  
a circular recessed center region having a recessed bottom surface and including an upwardly inclined surface around the periphery of said recessed bottom surface, wherein the substrate is supported by a portion of the upwardly inclined surface and is spaced apart from said recessed bottom surface, and the upwardly inclined surface is inclined at

RCE/1700

**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

ADDRESS TO:  
Box RCE

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Application Number	09/457,929
Filing Date	December 8, 1999
First Named Inventor	Jack Chihchieh Yao
Group Art Unit	1763
Examiner Name	Jeffrie R. Lund
Attorney Docket No.	A-64873-1/MSS (463035-350)

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-captioned application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class main addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 4 day of December 2002.

*[Signature]*  
Name: Kari Bateman

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered.)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (including Form PTO-1449 and References)
- iv. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-captioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Fees are calculated as follows:
- |  | AMOUNT       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity  | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity            |
|--|--------------|---|--|
| i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE BASIC FEE                 | \$ 740.00    | \$ 740.00   | \$ 370.00  |
| ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXTENSION FEES               | \$ 920.00    | One-Month \$ 110.00<br>Two-Month 400.00<br>Three-Month 920.00<br>Four-Month 1440.00<br>Five-Month 1960.00 | \$ 55.00<br>200.00<br>460.00<br>720.00<br>980.00 |
| iii. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (5 TOTAL CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 22) | \$ 740.00 GP | \$ 18.00  | \$ 9.00  |
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$1660.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any variance between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges to Deposit Account No. 50-2319.
- c. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees as indicated above, charge any variance or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-2319.

SUBMITTED BY

Complete (if applicable)

Typed or Printed Name Maria S. Swiatek

Registration No. 37,244

Signature *[Signature]*

Date

December 4, 2002